Fiscal deficit of NE States

*205. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial deficit of each of the seven States in N E Region during Financial Year 1999-2000;

(b) the details of the States[1] financial position as on today; and

(c) in what manner, the Central Government propose to assist the States to overcome their financial problem?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Statement of financial position of States in N E Region in terms of Revenue Deficit Gross Fiscal Deficit and Closing Cash Balances, for the financial year 1999-2000 is enclosed *(see* below) [column (3) to (5)]. Latest available information for the Financial Year 2003-04 (BE/RE) is also enclosed (see below) [column (6) to (8)]. All States, except Manipur, were holding either cash balances or were within ways and means advance limits as on July 16, 2004.

(c) Government of India is assisting the North Eastern States to overcome their financial problems in the following ways:

(i) 30% of Normal Central Assistance for State Plans is earmarked for special category States;

(ii) 10% of the plan budget of most of the Central Ministries and Departments is required to be spent only in North Eastern States; a provision of Rs. 5823 crore has accordingly been made for expenditure in the North Eastern region.

(iii) Shortfall in expenditure by Ministries is placed in a non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources. An amount of Rs. 650 crore has been budgeted for 2004-05 for this purpose;

(iv) Inter-State projects in North East are funded through North Eastern Council for which a budget provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made for FY 2004-05;

(v) Government of India has also introduced a debt-swap scheme to enable States to retire their high cost borrowings by taking advantage of the current low-interest regime.

Statement

Revenue & Gross Fiscal Deficit of States in NE Region for the years 1999-2000 *and* 2003-2004 *REME*

(Rs. in crores)

SI. No.	States	1999-2000 (Actuals)			2003-04(RE/BE)		
		Revenue Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-)	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Closing balance with RBI	Revenue Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-)	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Closing balance with RBI
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Arunachal Pradesh*	172	89	-9.17	-39	564	-104.99
2	Assam	-1005	1606	-694.69	-1691	3123	-259.22
3	Manipur*	-278	644	28907	-280	823	-607.84
4	Meghalaya	16	209	28.27	108	291	41.85
5	Mizoram	-31	214	-3688	-129	281	32.45
6	Nagaland*	-9	183	-87.98	99	429	197.09
7	Tripura	-23	290	114.30	166	636	-88.10

*Data pertains to Revised Estimates for the year 2003-04, for these States. For other States, data pertains to Budget Estimates

Source: Finance Accounts & Budget documents of respective State Governments & RBI.

CAG Report on sale of Modern Food, BALCO etc.

*210. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has sent final report on strategic sale of Modern Food, BALCO, Paradeep Phosphate, ITDC and HCI Hotels, VSNL, Jessop etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, in view of the assurance by the earlier Government to get every strategic sale scrutinized by CAG;

(c) whether any review of the shareholders' agreement *vis-a-vis* labour issues of these units has been done;